



PLANNERS Jan~Mar 2019 News Letter

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In this Issue

Special dossier on focus with urban utopia and planning intelligence on spatial and vertical dynamics.

glimpse of a polymath

Upright cityscapes and corresponding trials of engineering are value ingredients of a highly competent urban design.

Math have proven historically that it determines a system of urban forms and a way forward for a tolerable lemmata to urban design engagements.

Exploratory rationale is desirable for approval of any urban design proposals and enquiries through acceptance of urban legion while questioning the scale and extent.

an inquest of tradition

It is dramatic to build interesting simulations of the city model in third dimension for varied kinds of analysis and inspections through visualizations.

Weird urban models are made and viewed in virtual celluloid and impressions on moving images appreciated as megalomaniacal which is never earthly.

Open Hand: Resurgence of Surrealism



Image Courtesy: Daemon Trooper's Workshop, Steam Community.

Postmodernity and surrealism are converged ideologies through negotiated cognizance and a proximally willing tête-à-tête, since these are parallel on objective semblance, though varied inherence of predicated divergence in discrete variety.

There must always be a certain effect of hardness and thinness about utopian speculations. Their common fault is to be comprehensively jejune. That which is the blood and warmth and reality of life is largely absent; there are no individualities, but only generalised people. In almost every Utopia — except, perhaps, Morris's 'News from Nowhere' — one sees handsome but characterless buildings, symmetrical and perfect cultivations, and a multitude of people, healthy, happy, beautifully dressed, but without any personal distinction whatever. This burthens us with an incurable effect of unreality, and I do not see how it is altogether to be escaped. Whatever institution has existed or exists, however irrational, however preposterous, has, by virtue of its contact with individualities, an effect of realness and rightness no untried thing may share.

— H. G. Wells, *A Modern Utopia*, 1905.

Surrealism during 1920s and 1930s was a very powerful cultural movement that incited poets, writers, artists, architects across the globe. But once again, a dramatic resurgence in modern ambitions and surreal character is vivid in urban India. New socio-cultural trends are promoting in sharing deep-rooted acquaintance with objectivity of neo-surrealism, and are evident and animated through bizarre urban forms and their treatment. The experiments of fifties now appear only to be an early phase of post-modernistic endeavors, which announced itself in few works (i.e. Chandigarh Administrative Complex), but remained unacceptable due to the adverse spirit of those times, hostile to innovations and also large scale ignorance. The predominance of old school of thought, as an establishment, is equally strong in the current socio-political appeal, and stimulated negligible quantities of innovations in built forms and urban design. But, this decade is beholding the tide of variety and weird form treatments to urban situations. ☞

Special Issue, 'Urban Utopia'

Perceptibility

The mind and body are not two different things, but rather embodiments of one single organic process. Appreciable aesthetic dimensions of this organic activity are always expressed in the form of either acceptance or rejection. Aesthetic dimensions are qualities of ability to assimilate patterns of sensorimotor processes and pre-learned or continuity of emotions based on knowledge.

Though there is a theory of mind and body dualism, and did not gather much of momentum since the promotion of such may attract a misleading adventure or act on challenged perceptive abilities. The best of biology, psychology, cognitive neuroscience, and phenomenology demonstrate that of human experiences in virtual space studded with surrounded divergent activities. It is once acquired, and perceptions may be of reoccurrence based on variety of experiences which tend to be highly repetitive.

Urban forms are complex and every individual perception by experience may vary depending on the abilities of learning. This would quite vary from individuals and again based on the previous knowledge and orientation of learning and transformation.

Urban design must assume that the built forms needing to be as agreeable as experiments through novice users of space and to be continuous in creating multiple kind of human experiences that are convergent with body and mind. Once again, accumulated knowledge of space must be sharable across communities/groups for creating an awareness that solve the jinx of first time learning, an activity of hardship.

This special issue of News Letter looks into some of the theories/ experiences of urban design from perspective of spatial convenience to visual appreciation on flow character of built forms. ☞

Chairman's Desk

Building codes and regulations have been an intrigued subject for citizens and society in general, especially in the democratic sense. The laws are framed across urban forms to have definite objective of characterizing the visual structures. The city of Hyderabad have had many such ideas been applied with revisions and timely changes, ever since the formation of the municipal corporation in 1955 through an Act.



S. Devendar Reddy, Chairman, ITPI-TRC.

Though delineated boundary of the corporation has not been so vast as today, the Act certainly has a mention of an interesting phrase in ideology of what is visual contents of urban forms, in section §2 and point 11 — *'cubical contents' when used with reference to the measurement of a building means the space contained within the external surface of its walls and roof and the upper surface of the floor of its lowest storey, or where the building consists of one storey only, the upper surface of its floor.* It remained an orphan as simple addition to terms of definition in the Act with no applicability of what so ever.

FSI and FAR kind of measurements shall give way to 'Form Based Codes', and Hyderabad has been a case study for the Country. Erstwhile Government of Andhra Pradesh through its 'G. O. No. 86, Revised Common Building Rules, 2006' simplified its building bylaws in Hyderabad and all cities of Andhra Pradesh. There is no FSI

parameter in the common building rules, but minimum setbacks and height that regulate the built form.

- Congested areas — 10 Meters.
- Core city of old MCH — 18 Meters.
- Banjara Hills — Special regulations.
- New Urban GHMC — Unlimited.
- Historic Precincts — Heritage rules.

The G. O. No. 86 has been providing flexibility to the civic authorities in augmenting facilities, since it is categorically stated for 50% of the city impact fees would be spent on regional development, and I feel, it must be for determining the grand character of the city for its historic importance and cultural past which is still visible in few surviving heritage structures across. Predominantly, height is the control as provisioned in today's regulations, but radical changes needed in controlling the form to define a specific character to a city, for instance Jaipur, Central Paris etc.

An example of sorts, at Delhi, on an international architectural competition for the building complex of Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts during 1985, and to have been under observation of architectural controls by Delhi Urban Arts Commission, won by Ralph Lerner and later described as an embedded heritage along with Lutyenesque architectural form appeal of Rajpath and Janpath. The critical analogy adopted by Gautam Bhatia, the first runner up in the competition, that of Rajpath is like a graceful flow of river and the embankments are of a definite urban visual tradition.

<http://formbasedcodes.org/definition/>

For Hyderabad, complete envelop from Lakdi Ka Pool to Charminar covering State Assembly, Public Gardens, Mozamjahi Market, Osmania General Hospital, High Court and State Central Library, be declared as the thread of provincial urban symbolism, and to be protected for the visual treatment. Deploy apparent rules of form on historic as well as inconsistent modern edifices, whether public/ private or other engineering structures (metro rail etc.), under a statutory body of Hyderabad Urban Arts Commission. ☞



Sri. G. Venkataramana Reddy who is 92 years old was born in the village Alandur located in the southern outskirts of Chennai city. As a young boy he began learning the art of drawing from his father Gurnatha Reddy who was serving as a senior official in the office of the Consulting Architect of the Government of Madras Presidency. After completing the preliminary school education from Ramakrishna Mission High School at Tyagarayanagar, Chennai, he joined Madras School of Art. On completion of his studies in Art, he joined Bombay School of Architecture in the year 1945. After studying architecture for five years, he passed the final examination of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA), London. He has gained proficiency as an architect, town planner and structural engineer. With this professional experience, he joined the Town Planning Department of the Government of Madras State as Town Planning Expert in the year 1952. He became the Joint Director of the Town Planning Department of the separated Andhra State in the year 1953. He served as the Director of Town Planning of Government of Andhra Pradesh for over fifteen years. After completing a term of three years as the Vice-Chairman, Development Authority of Vijayawada Urban Region, he joined as an Additional Secretary in the Secretariat of Andhra Pradesh and retired from the Government Service in the year 1983. Immediately after retirement he served for nearly seven years as the advisor to Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh in the subjects of Housing, Urban Development and

major architectural projects in Hyderabad city. He represented India in the international conferences on housing for the poor, urban planning and development held in England, U.S.S.R., Thailand, Bangkok and Japan. He travelled extensively in many countries in Europe, Russia, south-east Asia, U.S.A and Japan.

He has been leading a spiritual life by virtue of a student by Ramakrishna Mission from his early education. He is an ardent teacher of architecture and town planning, and astute decision maker due to the town plans prepared under his supervision.

It is a very articulative discussion on 8th Feb. 2019 with Sri. Ventaramana Reddy about varied aspects of urban planning and design from an expert point of view. He is implored with few deterministic queries, and on those the Editor captured the specifics that are learnings from the thought process of a multifaceted powerhouse of knowledge. The discussion revolved around the simplicity of life and humble to humane as planner needed to be during the working on urban aspects of inclusive architecture.

The importance of planner to assess the meaning of true urbanism?

Planner must understand the aspirations and ambitions of the people, and also must define the good life to the society, and the plans to respond the instinctive expectations of population. Planner is not a bread winner to the urban residents, but may demand an immense sense of responsibility that can drive their life or change due to the influence of planning doctrine. The built forms of multiple floors have been a trend at Hyderabad, and this phenomenon must go through a strict scrutiny of public acceptability while representing the economic limitations of the society. The social need shall be the utmost vision for any such adventures since every city in India has survived for hundreds of years with its urban distinctiveness. Mainly the adversities in immaturities of infrastructure can influence the urban high-rise, and a status check is a must with reference to planned built forms and necessity of other engineering dependencies. My feeling is that the city has not reached

that stage to emulate such from the West. The recently inaugurated rapid transportation system is going to cause multiple problems to the future, by means of posting additional pressure or burden to other prevailing operational infrastructure of the city which is already in the state of a higher imbalance. Americans did such blunder and with the advance studies revealing so in recent past, they have been trying to rectify from these expensive mistakes. Before determining the urban character, there has to be a seamless integration between urban and rural, and better called as regional for all practicalities of understanding the land behavior in true sense, and not to encourage the creation of pseudo impressions of higher demand of tall structures. There can always be alternatives that are within the reach of regional economy. Is it possible to transform the major economy of the country to be urban? Of course, may not really be a practicality. Instead, self-sufficiency in both urban and rural economies can solve some of the impending issues pertaining to gaps that spans across social and economic nature. Instead, the selfish business environment of urbanism is running after emulating England and Americas. It is still not far from repair, provided an appropriate urban planning strategy is adapted for the country. Serious attention shall be on maintaining the critical man and land ratio. If the standard two acre per person barrier is broken, there tend to be serious repercussions for land per capita production and finally to have severe influence on GDP with adverse impacts. That would be an irreparable and irrevocable situation in regional economies and may alter the face of urban and rural economies for ever. Town planner must analyze these indicators for the plan preparation exercises in fulfilling the true urban definitions, and the planner must emulate the role of a social worker for delivering the urban welfare. In another century, the ultra hyped development in the West would cease to exist, and India must immediately start developing different approaches for urban development.

Forms and streetscapes to have repeatability of habitat and living?

The definition of the townscape is in



two different dimensions, and must be assessed for promotion of planning appropriation. The influence of any change is not taken in a positive sense by the living inhabitants in general, and these emotions are very strong with the traditional space users than the migratory inhabitants. These are individual appeals that may have deep sentiments on the determination of 'house as physical entity' and 'home as social entity'. It is the job of urban designer to coordinate for amicable solution as union between these two entities. In deed, these have been on practice in Indian context of living as community by committed welfare of self and also of neighborhood, a typical delivery perfection of social hierarchy. It is not the physical form that has been a imitative replication from the West, but a shall be the representation of true Indian way of life. A habitat that is the mirror of good life of a self and harmonized living with neighborhood shall determine the urban form that may have progressed over time in representing the people participation. The urban plan must determine the distinct responsibilities of inhabitants in making and managing the urban built forms.

Tradeoffs in intermixing modernity and traditional built forms?

History of cultural evolution may provide the answer to this question. Culture is internal to a being and civilization is external to life. Aspiration of culture exposes the inner frame of mind of a being to the aspirations of life in the urban setting, and the disposition to prepare the aesthetics of living spaces, which may be internal and external. So much so, the civilization is not derived by individual habits, but environment of living is important to promote the culture. Habitual patterns of man is an embodiment to the tradition while dependent on the local environment which determines primary functional constraints to living. Tradition also goes for changes due to betterment in economy and an input for notification of changes in the local habitat by urban designer in plan considerations. Tradition is represented through the architectural form though there would be no possible reversals, since the adopted ambitions can not go against

tradition. The mold of life through ancient traditions of India is quite different from the West, and artificial adaptation of an alien culture to represent the architectural features may just be a temporary phenomenon. The built spaces may be in forceful occupation, but inherently these reverberate the unfaithful usage by inhabitants or users. Value the tradition through its originality of life as a requirement for design.

Experiences in application of urban design to practice?

Is there anything like urban design in practice? Principles of understanding the urban way of life is entirely different from the rural, though the tradition may be of similar origins. The design alternatives revolve around the way of life of the occupants of space. The aesthetic content of the built form is with the imagination of urban designer, whether driving approach is either materialistic or organic design, and satisfaction to entire community as participating users in experiencing the dynamics of space. One important aspect, the assessment of cultural levels is a must to evaluate the fitment to design and to popularize through purposive fulfilments.

Suggestions on an effective urban planning for disciplined cityscape?

How can an urban design be disciplined when the tradition is not so, the design must either follow the tradition or inculcate the application of tradition. The experiences revealed that additions to built forms (official or unauthorized) is more individual driven and grows organically based on ambitions, and vivid in effluent areas or zones. The suggestion is to make sure that there is a mix of land-use between rich and poor to stabilize the social structure by means of sharing similar urban facilities while sustaining equilibrium in affordability of living. This would improve the community participation through division of responsibilities and shall be the motive behind a better urban design. This would encourage higher level of democratic practice in upholding the accountability of the community for development of a better city. It is also noticed that the built forms may be changed or altered or redesigned

across a community cycle or a life span of an individual, and are temporary experiences of individuals.

Controls in various urban plans to manage the uniformity in built forms?

There can not be uniformity in built forms, but controls through various urban plans is necessary. For instance, master Plan that controls the land-use and communications, and may have higher impact on potential built forms of high-rise. Though the meaning of these plans to differentiate various facets of urban life, i.e. place of living, working etc., and prepare suggestive controls in defining the property of space delivered for specific use at different times by inhabitants, which has a very close relation to the local and prevailing cultural tradition.

Legal and community compromises on controls?

Ancient days, community life of society was controlled by Dharma, Sarva Dharma and Varna Ashrama. Method of managing the society was Rajya Dharma. Shashtra and Vedas were the rules for development of man and his culture. No other law and constitution was needed during bygone era as compared to today's highly complex legal systems. Law, in principle, needed only to the willful violators to face enforcements. Self discipline is a symbol of a matured tradition, taught by eminent scholars and through their reverence to scriptures and higher learnings. My anticipation is when the tradition as a system is followed in spirit, there may not be violations due to self discipline, resulting as an indirect obedience to legal controls on urban behaviors.

Institutional responsibilities for an effective urban design process?

Institutions must prepare the rationale of functions that are in favor of people requirements and to match their tradition, and not that of an imported substance of knowledge from external experiences. The plans must truly be domestic and to respect the ambitions of inhabitants, and shall encourage voluntary participation by involved stakeholders in growth and subsequent urban form motivations. ☞

Defying the Gravity, Urban Mega Structures of Modern Times

Sreenivasulu Naidu

The load bearing construction of hand crafted natural elements dominated the history that characterized the townscapes by ancient Romans and Greeks. One significant feature among all those engineering marvels had

urban forms. When critical concerns on design stability of structures is achieved, the trend to conquer the height has been on rise to build mega towers with picturesque appeal.

Advent of advanced computing that make these structures so inspiring,



Mega Legend Arch at Madaure (1st Century Roman Colony), Algeria.

been the single form that of arch (compressive stress to keystone) of large spans to the suitability of building patterns. These constitute massive public buildings and works of civil engineering, and with attention to the requirements of residential and public health for both royals and commons. Some of these structures withstood the test of time till date across many centuries.

It would be quite unfulfilling, if there is no mention of great pyramids by Pharaohs, and has been a mystery to the modern science to imagine/ cognize the engineering methodologies embraced to mobilize and shape gigantic stone layers to precision balance into Giza pyramid complex along with the scaled dimensionality of composition to Great Sphinx.

Later times, the discovery of new building materials and advancement in engineering enabled the growth in quality development, and the applied advancement to post World War II period symbolizes the beginning of most current generation of high rise in

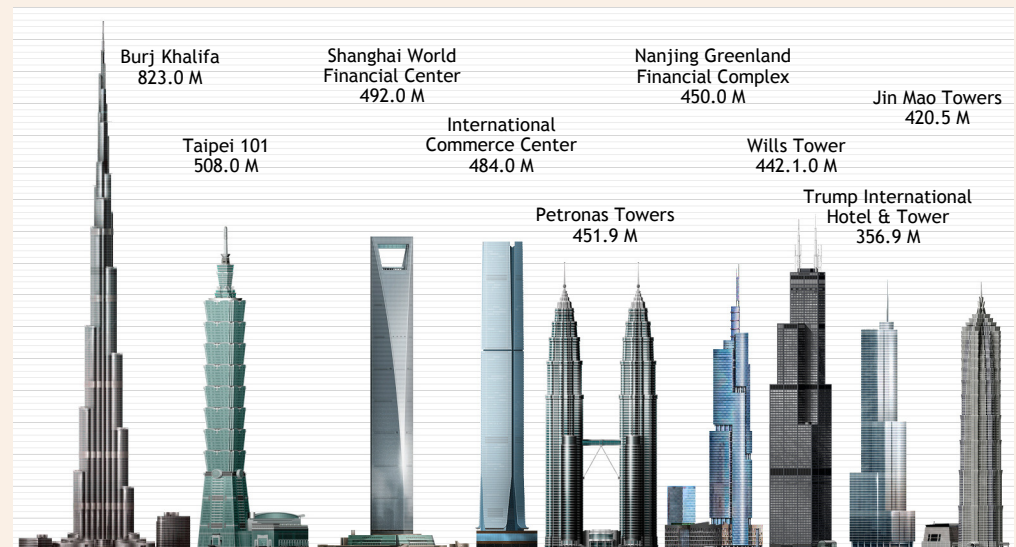
explicitly on complicated engineering calculations and simulative studies. Bill Baker, the engineer at 'Skidmore, Owings & Merrill', structural designer for Burj Khalifa, "the trend towards taller, thinner buildings has presented fresh spins on old engineering challenges. When the ratio between the height and width of a building goes beyond 8:1 or 9:1, it becomes

Modern Urban Structures	
Floors	Engineering Systems
10	Braced & Hinged Frames
20	Rigid Frame & Concrete
30	Rigid Frame Steel
35	Concrete Shear & Steel Hinged Frame
40	Braced Rigid Frame
60	Concrete Shear & Steel Rigid Frame
70	Concrete Shear & Concrete Frame
150	Outrigger Structure & Belt Truss

increasingly more expensive to design and construct, since it requires thicker walls and sophisticated technology to reduce the amount of swaying and shaking caused by the wind". Baker compared today's thinner supertalls to a fishing rod, and making one stand up straight necessitates much stronger and reliable structural reinforcement.

Tall building has varied definition and cited based on the contextual setting in the cityscape. A twenty story building may not be considered as tall in a high-rise urban context, but in a low density linear setting or a suburb it may still be considered taller against the local urban planning principles.

Controls/ bylaws, as determined by urban plans, specify the permissibility of building heights, but the freedom in creative expression of forms is a structural engineer's nightmare to prepare the quantitative to guarantee the stability of the built forms to the veracity of ground truth. ☞



World's Tallest Buildings.

Image Courtesy: Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat.



Patterns in Urban Design and Fathoms of Undisclosed Math

Ramesh Srikonda

History recalls Aristotle Hippodamus as the first urban planner, and have a higher interest in geometric forms on both plans and vistas in design of segregated spaces of sacred, public and private in ancient Greek towns. It was the spatial organization that took to importance in designing the dedicated spaces, and was well seen in planning of the port of Athens. During 440 BC, he planned the city of Thurium (Thurii), with streets crossing at right angles. These schematic influences are vivid in many primordial cities of archaeological prominence — and among Halicarnassus, Alexandria and Antioch.

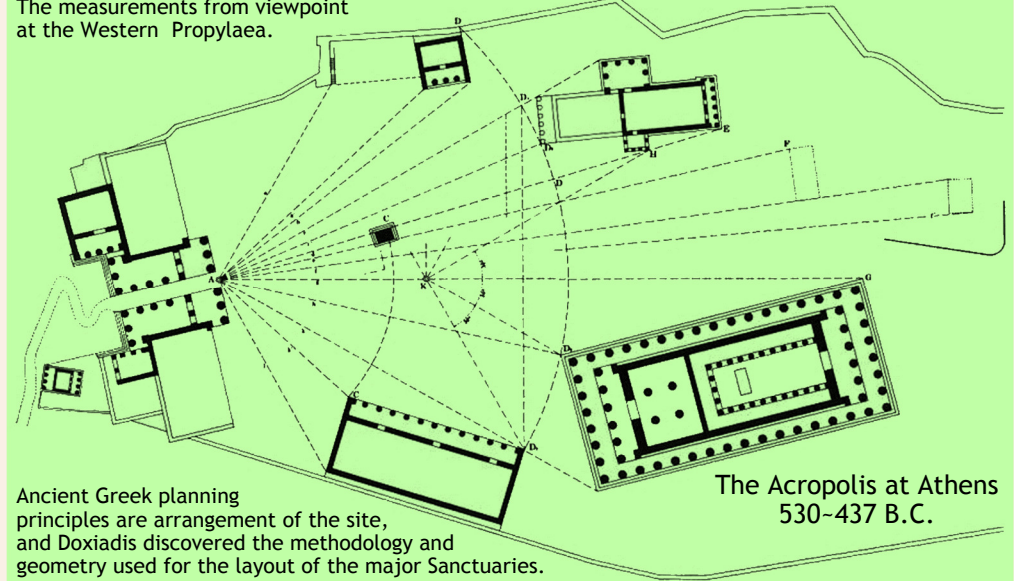
In argument of the wellness in the sectoral spatial space by compactness and the user appreciation is on the brighter side of vertical alignment in visual built-up. The compactness is measured by means of comparative statistics of geometry, and the structural density on transit as well as bylanes is expected to have been curated to an optimum level.

The way to prepare a complex organization of spatial urban form is by translating the activity in space to

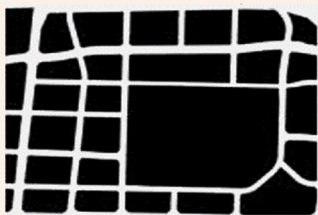
Type of Compactness	Computing Math
Polsby-Popper	Equal Area Radius = Sq.Rt. (Area/PI)
Schwartzberg	$\frac{1}{(\text{Perimeter/Equal Area Perimeter})}$
Area/ Convex Hull	$\frac{\text{Area}}{\text{Area of Minimum Convex Polygon}}$
Reock	$\frac{\text{Area}}{\text{Minimum Bounding Circle}}$

the graph models of i) nodes, ii) connections and their iii) hierarchy.

The measurements from viewpoint at the Western Propylaea.



The mapping of these is not only planar but on vertical dimensions as to ascertain the suitability of kinematic determinations, due to the reason that the built forms can not be flexible where as the purposive occupancy and respective psychic impressions are so. The aura of appropriate occupancy of these forms bring forth the truth of life in the designed spaces, and quantitative analysis of these indirect indicators is very much essential in measuring the influences.



Mississauga



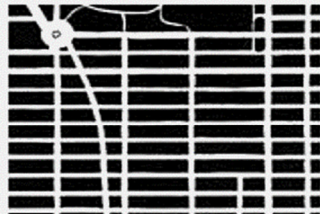
Barcelona



Copenhagen



London



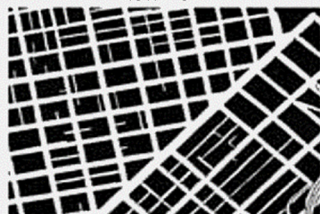
New York



Paris



Rome



San Francisco



Toronto

Differences in Patterns among Organic and Modern Cities.

Image Courtesy: ŽDÍMALOVÁ Mária.

The measurements and application of such science would help planners determine gerrymandering (not a political sense but in geographical means) the boundaries that are distinctly diverse with reference to their visual order and behavioral differences, and help define spaces for better appreciation of every individual functional property. Further, the redistricting of the urban uniqueness would help outline better controls in support of promoting/ developing discrete character with fairness.

Math is necessary in validating the influence of differed variables in planning urban spaces which are complex in reactive propositions, and finally the representation of urban behavior in quantifiable scenarios. Every planning exercise would be unique in discovery of formulae to measure on how the dynamism of space is assessed based on functional performances. ☞

Editor's Choice

[Hyderabad Metro Rail, a segmental wonder on historic streets – a tale on structural veneer of city fabric.]

Hyderabad has transformed with the new landscape from its traditional past to modern elevated transport

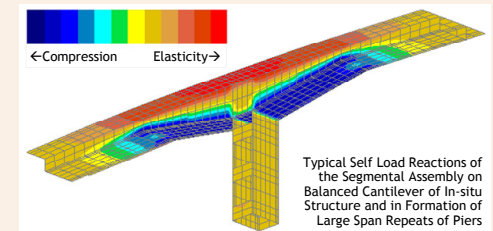
The cross-over bridge at a busy traffic junction of Punjagutta was a critical proposition for HMR, and skilfully solved with innovation in execution.

An arch-shaped cantilever section built at 51' height from above the

The shape of the arch gives an impression that it is compressed stress to the middle, but only a simple hanger between two long span piers on edge tendons, where shear is controlled through cantilevers on either sides of piers to the distance of 115' each. It took four months to complete the entire assembly of the viaduct with following quantities,

- 841 cubic meters of M50 grade concrete.
- 185 tonnes of TMT bars.
- 38 tonnes of high tension tendons.

The design solution was not only an engineering challenge but also the greater skill in execution on multitude



Two Level Ameerpet Metro Rail Junction

Image Courtesy: Deccan Cornicle.

system. The cityscape by latest is referred through the pillar numbers of Hyderabad Metro Rail for location mapping by other ground based services (i.e. postal, mobility etc.). The network spans through the major road systems across twin-cities of Hyderabad & Secunderabad, triggering the growth of three tier mobility system in upkeep of sustenance to the future traffic needs.

The structural silhouettes created by metro stations and segmental viaducts across the city has changed the urban sight for ever. City still has to absorb and live to counter the confusing exits in structural intermixing with existing road infrastructure and cross-over bridges.

The first segmental concrete bridge, built in 1950 across the Lahn River in Balduinstein, Germany, and the first precast segmental concrete bridge, built in 1962, on the Seine River in France. Since the success of these experiments, construction techniques of the segmental bridges have improvised in practice due to ease in delivery with lesser disturbance to the other spatial activities on locations.

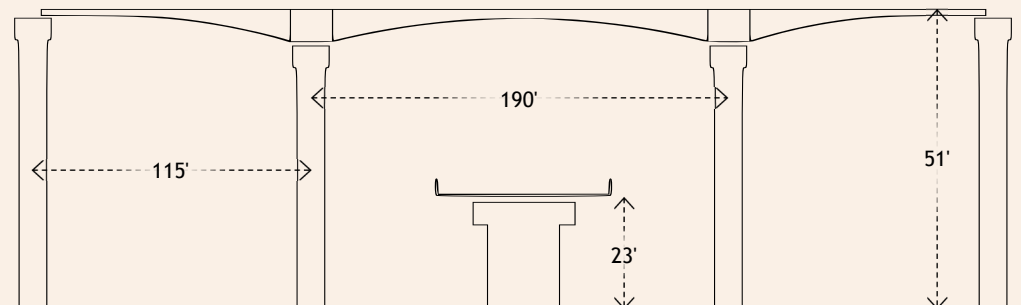


Width of Engineering Challenge with Cast-in-situ Segments.

Image Courtesy: Deccan Cornicle.

ground, while cross-over viaduct for regular vehicle traffic located at 23' height, constructed prior to the decision of a rapid rail system. The central span between the piers of this iconic structure is whopping 190' long.

of concerns. The most entailed issue of the runtime safety to a busy junction with very high local traffic volumes. Inspirationally, this piece of work may be rated as a mega structure of the city and many more to follow.



Urban Architecture and Saga of Structural Forms in Cityscape

K. Ravi Kumar Reddy

Ever since the evolution of humans and the acquisition in wisdom of living, the geometries have intrigued the science of knowledge. First the forms of objects and repeated regularization, followed by ability to measure the dimensionality in both surface and volumes. But, the nature and visible universe which is full of irregularity had been a unsolved mystery till the growth of engineering and post-modern methods.

The objects visualized and repeated by ancient mathematicians are very regular of shapes that are measurable through descriptive identities — namely cube, cone, cylinder, pyramid, tetrahedron etc. This has enabled the scalability possible on these objects where the mereological universalism on composition of these objects for aesthetic appreciation. It has become the designers dream to make as many combinations of these objects possible to produce a visual retreat.

Surrealistic attitudes among designers has radicalized the way to create the forms and objects, mostly unorthodox and highly irregular at par with the fractals consisting finite elements. This approach has facilitated the designers to move away from the traditional and restricted geometry towards more mesmerizing characters that blend/ embed well with anatomy of nature and landscapes.

Urban living is, by demand, a higher density and a forced multi-level of occupancy. The designers among the urban planners have visualized this phenomenon by translating functional requirements of planar to scalar and encouraged this consciousness by participating in rendering the cityscapes with creative elegance.

But there is a negative lateral of this resurrection, of everything and anything need not be of creative potential, unless appreciated by end users and driven by the factor of time and experience, and otherwise gets

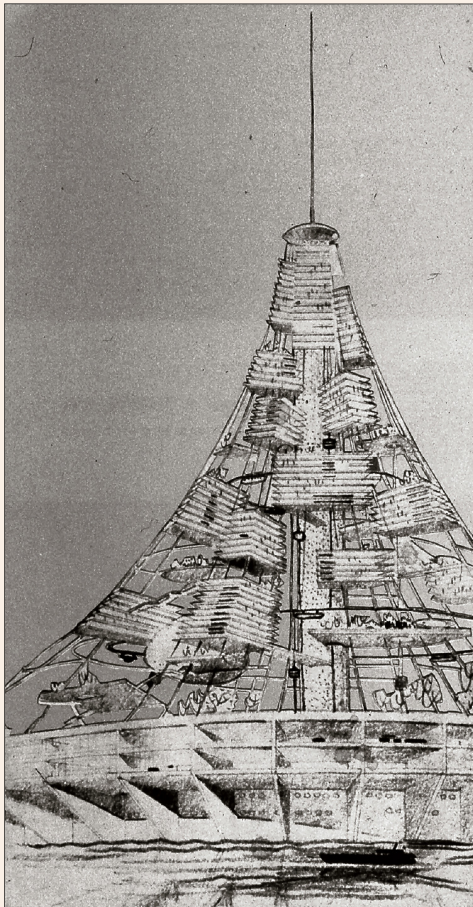
implied as mere philosophical and will remain as impractical experiments.

New types of urbanism is accelerating momentum on form independence from geometric pattern (Gothic) driven urban planning and streetscape. Architecture with analogy and by the

Of all the megastructure visions (spatial urbanism) is the most abstract, least material and most conveniently 'elegant,' and is called spatial only because it adds a third, vertical dimension to the customary two of the planner's flat paper surface to give a three-dimensional planning grid liberating the plan from the ground. As a concept this was not new; what distinguished *urbanisme* spatial from previous ideas of the sort was the proposal to build a physical grid of this sort in a form light enough for it to look no more than an abstract grid.

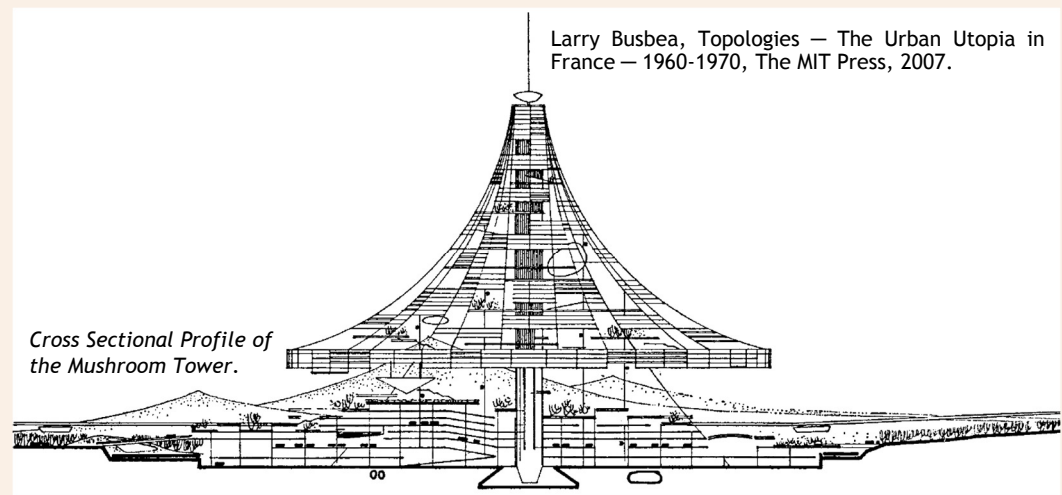
— Paul Damaz, Art in European Architecture.

influence of typology (Rafael Moneo — 1978), is the way typical definition of urban taxonomy for specific context of urban requirements. The definition envisages the physical characteristics to be more democratic and community centric than that of authoritarianism.



Mushroom Tower

Maymont's projects from the late fifties and early sixties essentially consists of massive, hallow concrete base on which rests a tower. Initially these towers were bulky pyramidal and conical forms resting on floating modular pallets that could be moved and linked up to one another. These rather heavy-handed forms soon gave way to Maymont's signature design: a 'mushroom' structure resting on a circular concrete base of about twenty meters in diameter, from which rose a central structural core that could reach various heights (always quite tall). Hanging from this core were floors of varying diameter (larger than bottom) that carried the necessary architectural and urban functions — housing, offices, streets, public spaces, and so forth. These platforms were suspended from the core, but also connected to the top of the structure via suspension cables. Soon, Maymont's urban towers freed themselves from their watery context and began to proliferate on the ground in and around existing cities — most often Paris itself. These 'buildings' were conceived of as cities in themselves, with levels containing all the urban functions including work, dwelling, green spaces, and pedestrian circulation. But the towers were not meant to be singular; they were always conceived in large ensembles, connected by suspended roads and railways. Maymount considered the stacking of cities a viable means of maintaining geographic and demographic concentration.



The clutches of traditional arrogance by means of controls for specific kind in predefined character treatment of cityscapes were let loose, and traced from its origins in the 'French Enlightenment' until the late 20th century. New urban designers are tending to believe that it is important to match the physical characteristics of a place within the appropriate typology, as determined by local preferences taken in context with urban patterns which evidenced throughout the indigenous knowledge base of the community past.

But in true egalitarian sense, modernist philosophers, with their general disinclination to keep within the constraints of tradition and hierarchies of patterns as defined by local determinants, are less likely to focus on identifying the correct typology and state of the site in urban growth. The eccentricities of utopian weirdness is all set to dominate neo-urban scenario in majority of modern cityscapes, without an appropriate transition in focus, particularly incase of a mandated inevitability. Conflict between the modernists and urban



Proposed Administrative Complex, Amaravathi, Andhra Pradesh.

Image Courtesy: Norman Foster.

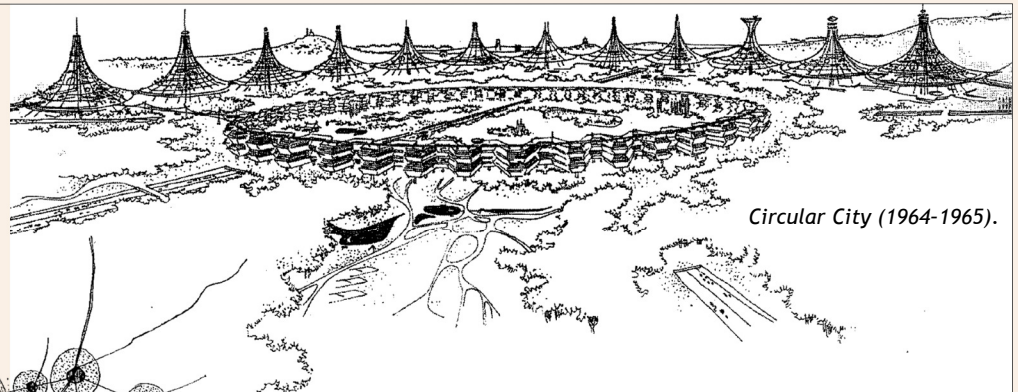
designers can be resolved only through the social obedience as trade-off, but may not be the pure solution, and the ideological gap continues to persist.

Conclusively, utopian arcadia must undergo severe inspection through enquiries to put forth the reasoning on ethnic suitability of urban built space, to be more practical and sympathetic to the social kind of the locale. The

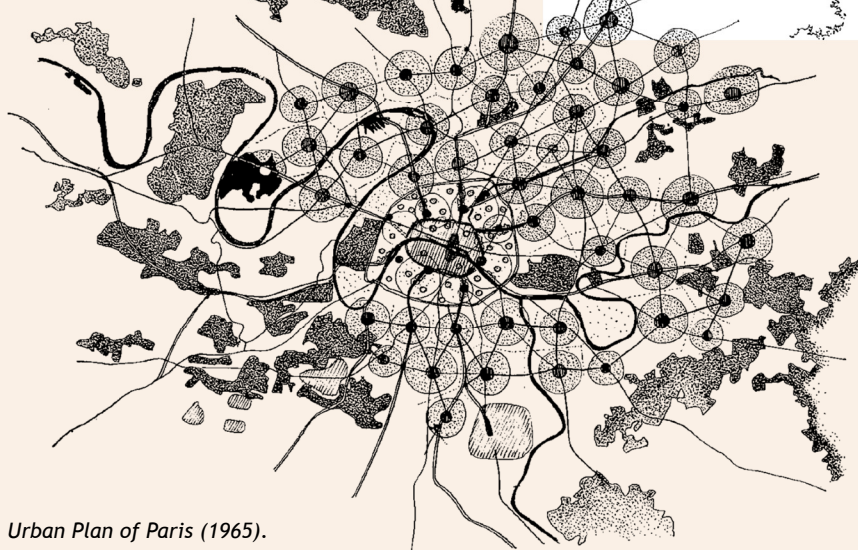
scrutiny must cover multitude of categories in indices — prevailing culture, physical climate, spatial patterns, profiles of built space (scaling view point), actual against intended appreciation, cost-benefits, etc. The treatment to the structures could permanently change visual character of the city, and requiring governing rules to review the artistic imagination of urban designers. ☞

Spatial Paris

Two young architects proposed 'audacious solutions' to Paris's urban dilemmas. The architects were Yona Friedman and Paul Maymont. Thus the scope had arced from the past to the future, from the outmoded Prost Plan to the futurist propositions of spatial urbanism, with possibilities for decongestion, the problem of satellite cities, the public perception of the *grands ensembles*, the necessity of demolition in the historic center, and while maintaining the precious cultural animation of Paris.



Circular City (1964-1965).



Urban Plan of Paris (1965).

The simpler of the two projects was taken from a series of studies of the Paris Region done by Maymont around 1960. This was the architect's first Paris-specific scheme. Series of towers was intended for the Plaine de Montesson, a wetlands area west of and within the administrative jurisdiction of La Défense. Resting in a curve of the Seine, the city suspended over the waterlogged land would have constituted for Maymont a 'Venice of the twentieth century'. In elevation, the giant towers (which could house 15,000-30,000 inhabitants each) with their elegantly sloping sides, evoke the covers of science fiction magazines from the period. Compositionally, they are the most regular, symmetrical, and staid of spatial urban proposals. They have an undeniable Beaux-Arts-inspired sense of siting and regularity. Throughout the sixties Maymont utilized the iconic form of his floating towers to reimagine Paris. Maymont's projects became more and more ambitious — larger in scope and scale. By the mid of 1960s Maymont had clearly begun to think in larger, in regional terms. A project from 1965 shows Paris at the center of a vast network of organically conceived 'cells' — each comprising a central circular crenellated structure of several stories in height and surrounded by a ring of towers.



Sri. Arifuddin Hasan was born on 4th of December 1945 at Nizam's Hyderabad. Famed J.J. College of Architecture at Mumbai had been the academic curricular of architecture for both G.D.Arch. and B.Arch., and his urge of academic excellence was fulfilled by completing M.Arch. from University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. And after returning to India, started his professional career in 1979 at Hyderabad. During his consulting practice, he had been a leading example for fraternity of architects at Hyderabad in 1980s for demonstration of higher levels in professional ethics and quality work detailing across client deliverables. For almost a decade, his works dominated the cityscape of Hyderabad with a brighter assortment of tradition to high-rise. Though the height of buildings in the central city has evolved to the demand of newer limits, the simpler treatment to the form in his buildings did engage with the prevailing indo-Islamic style of architecture while enacting the supplemental contrast to the grandeur of tradition. Manly, Basheer Bagh which attracted the demand of higher number of floors in built forms had been his experiments for innovative yet simpler intentions in design that seamlessly camouflaged to heritage. These works at Hyderabad are etched into the history of urban growth for generations to witness. In a discussion with this maestro on 3rd Mar. 2019, the editor captured few insights on multitude of experiences in visualizing architecture with reference to social functions and inspirationally to blend influences of the tradition.

Role of an architect to determine the urban form of a city?

Architect plays a very important role in understanding the tradition and try to influence the design to match not only the client requirements but also the living heritage while trying to contest the social concerns. The compassion shown by him/ her towards upliftment of traditional virtues through architecture may possibly address the concerns of patriachs demanding protection on traditional values, especially when in the days of cultural transformation under severe stress. The philosophy of urban design must resonate through the built forms that are created under his/ her design authority.

Urban planning to supplement the reasoning of appropriate urban design opportunities?

The plans prepared by the urban governance needing to be more proactive for controlling the urban facilities which are part-and-parcel of a better building. The systems in facilities that are public and private must mutually be compatible to each other for delivering a better urban context. When an appropriate environment is prevailing, the social acceptance of such passionate city

An Inquest

scape is practical. Definition of a city character through the urban plans may well be herculean task since the transformation is at its ugly state of emulating the unwarranted replication of the West. Socio-cultural features of the city are always inherent and many psychologically hidden, though in hibernation through some generations, but evokes its demands through citizen needs of urban built-up and facilities. I feel, cultural values with a specific character is very much embedded to one's own private built space and its strength in traditional integration to community space. This is hierarchical in order and the proposition of appropriate urban spaces is definitely an answer to organize a traditionally significant living, and urban plans must have such methodical references as a reflection of citizen charter.

And about Hyderabad a global city and the transformation?

It was never destined or rather the orientation of its foundations. The city which has grown leaps and bounds with out any reasoning of phenomenon in its radial urban expansion. Again, the appropriate urban order is always supplemented by supporting facilities, which is not in case of the current city growth. The failure of envisioned delivery of services is always haunting



Trendy High-rise at Bashir Bagh Cross Roads and Babukhan Estates on the Left, Completed in the Year 1987 with Area of 15,000 Sq. Ft. Built-up (Inset: Frontage). Image Courtesy: Wikipedia.

An Inquest

the urban living. The service portfolio is diminished to become a facility by unorganized and role of governance is reduced to acting on the permissions and policing on violations. Global city is socially and economically an outward influence, and demonstrated with sustenance of its cultural traditions, and urban growth respects the way the traditional rendition but not just the dissemination of built-up alone. Urban form is an outcome in distinction of socio-cultural necessities and always the extension to the past.

Biodiversity as it was seen from the past in Hyderabad city?

This was the city of baghs (gardens), and of the dense quantities of local tree varieties, intermittent royal villas and connected villages had been the spatial past. The promenades to these

villas and the villages have been well organized for capacities, while the royal buildings were unique in architectural representation, with linearity in visual structure for appreciation on public and private buildings. The past heritage of such had largely vanished and could be witnessed through some protected pockets across the city as indication of the environmental past. The high growth momentum have not only destroyed the cultural past but also the man-nature relationship for ever.

Reasoning of infrastructure to value the dimensions to urban design?

Promenades of an urban setting are just not roads alone, but a living system of urban integration. Surface and subsurface services are always active at any given point of time, and

urban utopia

in a systematic sense the behavioral upkeep is real-time. Diversification of road system for different activities and their managed applicability for current sustenance and also with the view of future capacities, a comprehensive plan, is an affirmative challenge to urban designers for demonstrating their creative excellence.

On annexation of landuse planning and master plan preparations?

The flexibility provided by the legal limitations on mixed-landuse is the culprit for current state of spatial urban dishonesty. Land prices on the other hand are the triggers for less healthy civic sense which is depriving them of a better urban living. The attempts on unwarranted use of space by business oriented estates must be under surveillance by local body. ☞

Decay of Urban Assets



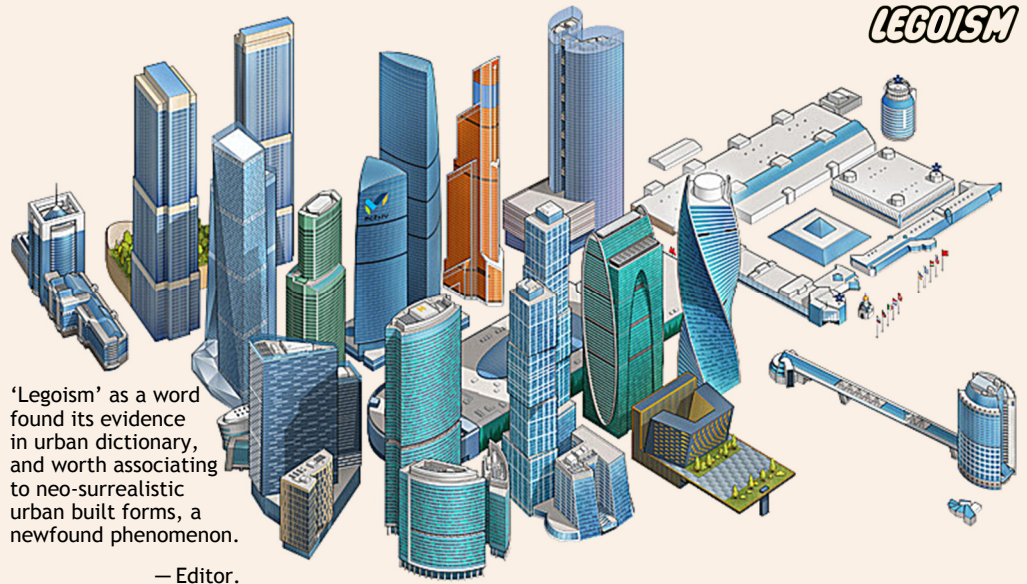
The apathy of the civic society has not only vanished the heritage outlook of Hyderabad, and need of the hour is stringent and controlled protection on the city landmarks, and has been witnessing a rapid and organized vandalization on architectural importance. The convenience of individuals in the name of ownership rights is never questioned by the governing authorities for such violations which are disturbing the urban fabric in a large scale. In many of the developed nations, the grave display of building additions of electric and telecommunication installations are never allowed to be visible from exteriors, and not even the modifications and alliterations to colors on approved edifice. Blatant display of advertisements and hoardings that have been decimating the architectural value of the urban panorama is a serious concern, and the local body shall be deterministic on such violations too as deviations. The urban built-up formations shall also be observed for unity while appropriate distribution of infrastructure and respect towards visual appeal of streetscape.



Single Motivated Context, and Multiple Dimensions of a Toy Game

Moscow International Business Center

Planned commercial district located in central Moscow, Russia — East of the Third Ring Road in the Presnensky District of the Central Administrative Okrug. Next to the Presnenskaya Embankment to the Moskva River, the project occupies an area of 60 hectares. Moscow city council conceived this project in 1992 to combine business activity, living space and entertainment in one single development area — Consciously planned to accommodate an estimated capacity of 2,50,000 to 3,00,000 people at the complex at any given time. Hard lessons were learnt during construction of few towers while incidents of fire mishaps during construction, and the complex to host six among the skyscrapers to scale the height of 300 meters or more, and to get the recognition of third, fourth, sixth, seventh, and eighth tallest buildings in Europe.



'Legoism' as a word found its evidence in urban dictionary, and worth associating to neo-surrealistic urban built forms, a newfound phenomenon.

— Editor.



Panoramic Postcard Performance

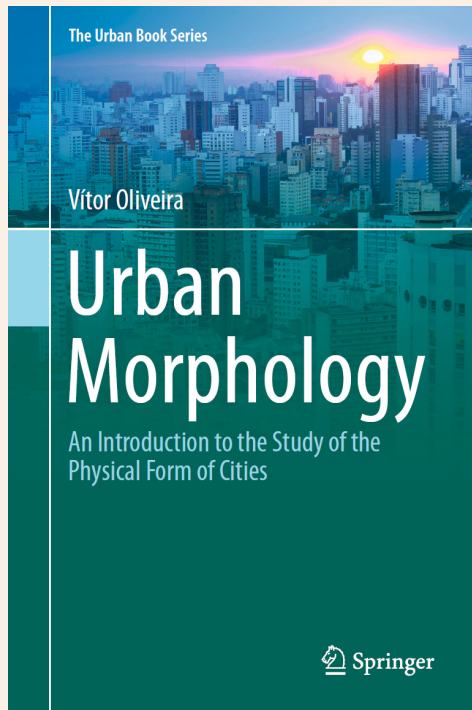


Flash of Fisheye



An Evening in Presnensky

Book Review

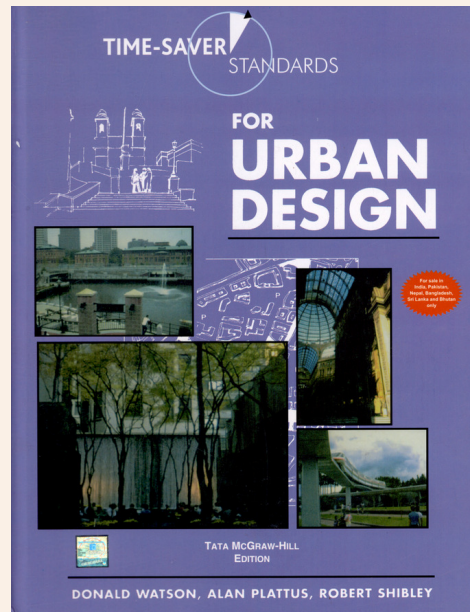


Urban Morphology - An Introduction to the Study of the Physical Form of Cities, Vitor Oliveira, Springer International Publishing, 2016.

This is a book about cities or, more precisely, about the physical form of cities. It starts presenting the main elements of urban form — streets, urban blocks, plots and buildings — structuring our cities and the fundamental actors and processes of transformation when shaping these elements. And then applies this analytical framework to describe the evolution of cities over history as well as to explain the functioning of contemporary cities. After the initial focus on the ‘object’ (cities) the book describes how different researchers and different schools of thought have been dealing with this object since the emergence of urban morphology, as the science of urban form, in the turning to the twentieth century. Finally, the book tries to identify what are the most important (and specific) contributions that urban morphology has to offer to contemporary cities, societies and economies.

The definition of ‘urban tissue’ that is expected consist the influential elements of streets, built-form etc., but the study of such has not been

done to enable the analysis on true scalar morphology of the city and neighborhoods. Though there is a reference about ‘Urban Morphology, Building Typology and Architecture’, the description fissile-out to the focused architecture philosophy than mandated urban visual analysis. ☞



Time-Saver Standards for Urban Design, Donald Watson, McGraw-Hill Professional, 2003.

This important addition to the McGraw-Hill Time Saver Standards series is entirely new, comprehensive, meticulously researched compendium of every aspect of the physical design of cities and other urban places including communities and civic and public places.

Featuring articles by authoritative urban design practitioners and scholars, this volume provides a visual and detailed archival records. Covers the full-spectrum of allied disciplines such as transportation planning, bioregionalism, parking, storm water management, universal design, urban acoustics, and graphics.

This inaugural volume on the topic of urban design in the Time-Saver Standard series is written for easy reference by urban planners and designers, architects, landscape professionals, civil and transportation engineers, environmental engineers,

as well as municipal government and planning officials. This ‘soon to be a classic’ provides one-volume reference that is indispensable for urban design policy and practice. It is equally valuable for urban studies educators and students of architecture, urban design and planning. ☞



Big Plans — The Allure and Folly of urban Design, Kenneth Kolson, The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2001.

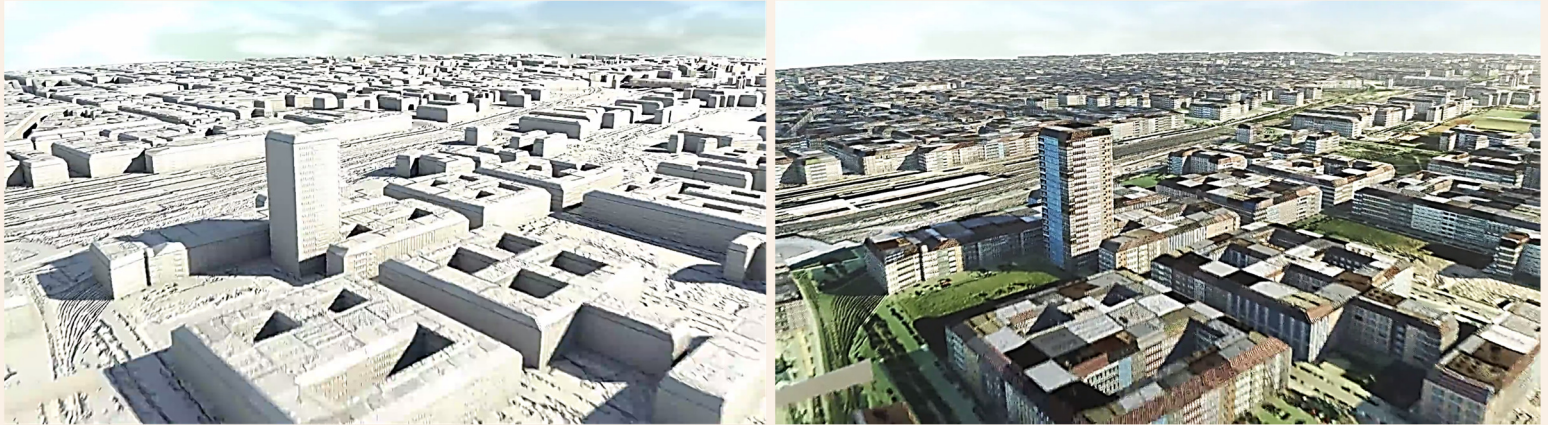
Springs from the idea that human aspirations for the city tend to overstate the role of rationality in public life. Inspired by the architectural and urban criticism of such writers as Lewis Mumford, Jane Jacobs, and John Brinckerhoff Jackson, Kolson adopts a user’s perspective on issues of urban design, an approach that highlights both the futility of social engineering and the resilience of the human spirit.

The utopian goal of big plans always are haunted by the dystopian reality of lived experiences on a professional sense. Urban designer must understand the reality of the projects at the city scale and to the verification of different feasibility kinds.

This may well be a comparative of a work similar in spirit to ‘The City in History’ by Lewis Mumford with a distinctive postmodern tone and perspective. Some of the examples percept the insights to feel the knowledge of built in cities lately is astonishing and not executed in a good way. The author argues well with an example of the ultimate failures of urban planning, and a good critic on city and design issues. ☞



3D Visualization of City Sphere, the Automated Dimensional Inputs



Before and After Elevation Images as Texture to Surfaces, Model with Geography Markup Language (GML). Image Courtesy: OpenStreetMap 3D City Generator.

The third dimensional visualizations from earlier generation applications have been of orientation for only visual appreciation and for developing restricted dramatic fly-paths of multimedia demos through the city model. The purpose of these is increasing to observe fuzzy trends of city three dimensional forms and associated georeferenced information for varied engineering applications, and of increasing tenacity to research by multiple subject domains. The online information could be very rich with heights of building and details of their treatment along with associative of spatial settings. The geometry involved in the spatial and vertical surfaces among built forms can allow extensive computational insights.

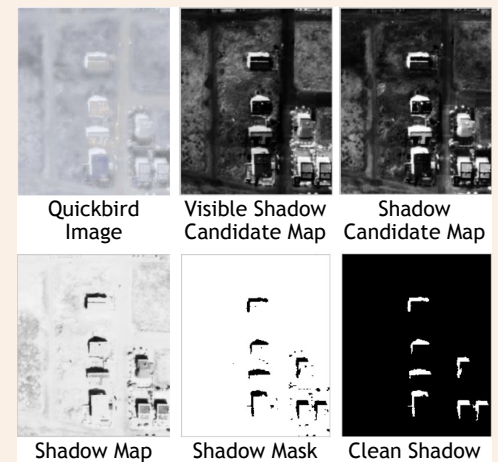
The taxonomy in built form details can be an associated information in the GML files along with spatial data, which is nothing but additional element information for the available boundary profile of the land parcels. The elevation information can rebuild the third dimension using either commercial or opensource dimension processing engines which are associated to a HTML5 browser, where user will have flexibility to define built form inspection priorities at par with other analytics programs.

Numerous methods have been developed for extracting the building heights from shadows in satellite imageries. Though it is not a new science which had been an order of investigating the terrain models from SPOT images since 90s, the new challenges of extracting the heights from the shadow profile are many in urban areas, especially for built forms. Uniformity in building algorithmic models is not generic to entire city, but varies for every instance about specific treatment to buildings.

Added to the above, the building with varied elevation and offset treatments in a cluttered neighborhood would require a larger number-crunching platform to add precision to the base model (geometric mesh). In case of heavy vegetation, the normalization of building elevation data becomes more complex, where the shadows needing an intelligent means of filtering.

It is a two step process to extrapolate the shadow variance of buildings on height data and the model of storage.

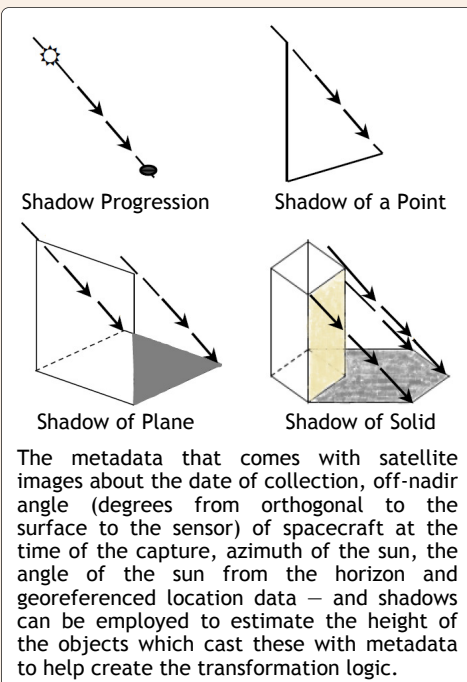
CityGML is a common information model (OGC) for the representation of 3D urban objects, and purpose is to provide a creation and a termination date as well as a reference to corresponding objects in other information systems. A generalization relation may be used to coordinate features, which represent the same real-world object in different Levels-of-Detail. The geometry type of



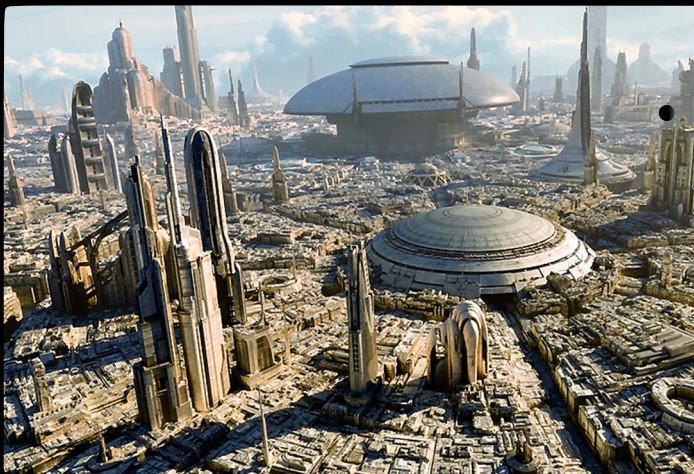
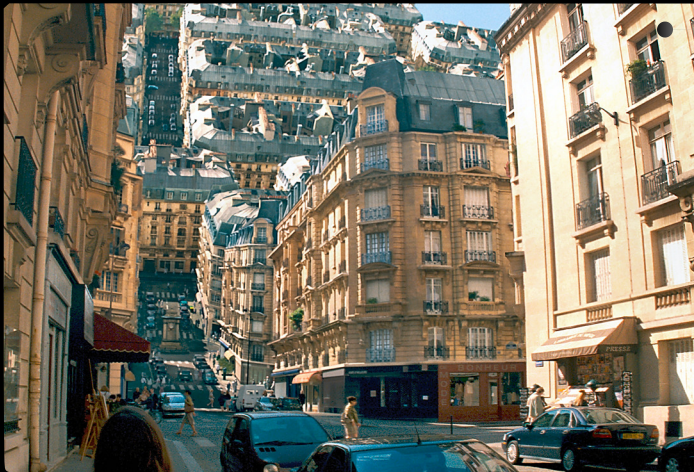
Grabcut Segmentation & Ratio-Band Algorithms.

foundation element describe abstract superclass for buildings, facilities, etc. Future extensions of CityGML like bridges and tunnels would be modelled as subclasses. The subclass of CityObject, and the extensions may inherit all attributes and relations, in particular the names, external references, and profile generalization.

Interactive model browsing engines can permit the surveys for changes to true/ real visual treatments in testing through simulative usecases with user meditations/ supervision. ☞



Tinsel Freaks of Bizarre Urban Sci-fi



The architecture in sci-fi films tend to be fascinating – and a source of inspiration for future architects and urban planners. But thanks to visionary storytellers and designers, we can already get a feel for the future metropolis of towers, carriageways, bridges and swathes of buildings, stretching all the way to the horizon. What could earthbound urban planners learn from such extremes? We already have skyscrapers in the middle of deserts and urban canyons far removed from natural daylight that resemble dark scenes from the 'Blade Runner' universe. In China, Taiwan and Singapore, planners are currently creating ultra-dense metropolises. On the other hand, it was architects like Kenzo Tange who, back in the 1960s, tapped into a futuristic spirit with their visionary, megalomaniac projects, overwhelmingly huge and not quite of this world. — Oliver Herwig, 2018.

Christopher Nolan's 'Inception', the urban landscape of Paris is used to explore the film's central theme of the imagination and the unconscious. Like in a dream, the fabric of the city is continuously twisted, distorted, fragmented and transformed. One of the most dramatic transformations of the cityscape with streets and buildings bend 180 degrees and transformation concludes as one part of the city is folded on top of the other. The duality caused by the city on the bottom and on top further emphasizes the duality between the conscious and the unconscious explored as leitmotif in the film. The view of the city as it bends over in the imagination also provokes comparisons with a virtual view enabled by new technologies can be used for a virtual voyage, the protagonists traverse their imagination in a surreal, dreamlike and transforming representation of the city. — World Film Locations: Paris.

Perhaps the most absurd vision of a megacity takes this idea to its logical conclusion. Coruscant in the Star Wars universe is a planet taken over by one massive single city. It is a profound vision of what has been called an ecumenopolis, the hypothetical concept of a planetoid city. Of course, the Star Wars vision of this massive city is depicted in almost utopian terms, with the word 'Coruscant' itself actually meaning glittering or sparkling. Coruscant's ground level is rarely depicted in the Star Wars movies but when we do briefly see it we get a pretty standard Blade Runner-esque mess of neon and grime. Even the utopian leanings of Star Wars can't put a gloss on the underside of a gigantic megacity. Despite the glut of different sci-fi futurist depictions of our forthcoming, it feels almost harder than ever to predict what our world will look like in fifty years. — Rich Haridy, 2018.

Imagination in modeling weird forms and unscientific designs to suit screenplays of sci-fi movies have been an art delivered by many directors

since dreams are up for selling, from those of a reach beyond achievable state to common man, where visual appeal and grandiose amused through

the illusionary medium of lens. This phenomenon has become rampant due to availability of high performance computing and scaling of graphics.



On this 26th January 2019, Republic Day was celebrated at ITPI – Telangana Regional Chapter.

This is the 4th and the last quarter publication from the current News Letter Committee 2018-19. Sincere thanks to esteemed members of ITPI-TRC for providing patronage, and wish the new committee continue the tradition in publishing content of varied subjects on urban affairs.

— Editor.

Key for Relation Mapping

News letter July-Sept 2018 and the article of 'The Crusaders of Change: Biodiversity in Conjunction with Heritage', union mapping of Acts is referred through a symbol of 'I' and section reference as '§' in respective text.

Errata — News Letter Oct-Dec 2018

Correction in the editorial from "And the dynamics of urban growth across all cities in India had moved beyond the identified garage dumping grounds", and shall be read as "And the dynamics of urban growth across all cities in India had moved beyond the identified garbage dumping grounds".



Charminar, Hyderabad has been awarded as Special Swachh Iconic Place 2018, and first in the Country and also Telangana; Shri. K. Srinivas Rao, Director (Planning), GHMC and ITPI Member received the plaque from Ms. Uma Bharti, Hon'ble Minister for Drinking Water and Sanitation on 2nd Oct. 2018.

The Kaleswaram Factor: a Strategic Regional Planning Necessity

Once the command area is calibrated, a new spatial structure is going to emerge across Telangana State by the advent of Kaleswaram Irrigation Project. It is going to trigger further levels in primary and secondary economies, where the prevailing social order would go for a massive shift. From regional planning point of view, the study on socio-economics would be a greater scholastic learning.

The imperatives among influencing factors would be; 1) reduction in rural to urban migration which has been a constant problem, 2) large scale multidimensional rural involvement to overall economy, 3) structured urban and regional balance in economic distribution, 4) emergence of growth factors that would attract external investments, 5) equitable quality distribution of infrastructure services between urban and rural and 6) tactical shifts on regional leadership in demand of stimulating social welfare.

— Editor.

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